

REMARKS

In the office action mailed on May 27, 2005, claims 1 - 17 were allowed and claims 18 - 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,430,571 (to Witteveen).

The Witteveen reference discloses a rotary mirror system 10 that includes a hemispherical mirror body 16 that is received by a hemispherical bearing shell 14 (Witteveen, col.4, lines 13 – 16). The mirror body 16 is supported by the bearing shell using a dynamic air bearing support system (Witteveen, col. 4, line 26 – 32). The air bearing support system includes gaps 24 and 30 in the hemispherical surfaces and grooves 18 and 20 in the mirror body 16 that serve to introduce air into the gaps (Witteveen, col. 4, lines 26 - 30). High air pressure is disclosed to be provided in the gaps 24 and 30 (Witteveen, col.5, line 47), and filters 38 are disclosed to be used to provide that the air in the gaps is protected against contamination by dust (Witteveen, col. 5, lines 57 - 61).

Claim 18 is directed to an adjustable beam deflector that includes, in part, positioning means for moving a beam deflecting movable element with respect to a fixed element when activated by applying a movement force to the beam deflecting movable element that is greater than an inertial force, and for permitting the beam deflecting moveable element to *remain in a fixed position* with respect to the fixed element when not activated due to the presence of the inertial force. It is clear that the high pressure air bearing support system of Witteveen would not provide that the mirror body remains in a fixed position with respect to the bearing shell when not activated due to the presence of some inertial force. The system of Witteveen is rather more similar to an air hockey table in which the movable object (the puck) would continue unimpeded when the active force is removed, or even that the movable object would continue to move

slightly once actively stopped. Claim 18, on the other hand provides that the moveable element remains in a fixed position when not activated due to the presence of an inertial force. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion that the high pressure dynamic air bearing interface disclosed in Witteveen provides such a beam deflector as claimed in claim 18.

Claim 18, therefore is submitted to be in condition for allowance. Each of claims 19 – 24 depends either directly or indirectly from claim 18 and is also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Each of claims 1 - 24, therefore is considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action consistent with the above is respectfully requested.

Enclosed please find a copy of the PTO Form 1449 filed with the Information Disclosure Statement on February 4, 2005. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial this PTO Form 1449 indicating a review of the references cited therein. Applicants also respectfully request that the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 14, 2005 be reviewed as well.

Respectfully submitted,



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